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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

TEXT

TAGS: FR, PGOV, SHUM (BARBIE, KLAUS)

SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE TRIAL: SETBACK FOR THE PROSECUTION

REF: LYON 0494 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, NEW CHARGES ARE PENDING AGAINST KLAUS BARBIE FOR CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST TWO FORMER COMBATTANTS OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE WHO WERE ARRESTED WITH THE RESISTANCE LEADER JEAN MOULIN. THE CHARGES WERE BROUGHT BY THE FAMILIES OF BRUNO LARAT AND ANDRE LASSAGNE. BRIEFLY, IT IS ALLEGED THAT THEIR DEATHS RESULTED FROM THEIR DEPORTATION TO GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS ON BARBIE'S ORDERS AND INHUMANE TREATMENT RECEIVED THERE.

2. AS ANY WAR CRIMES CHARGES AGAINST BARBIE ARE NOW BARRED UNDER FRENCH LAW BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, HE CAN ONLY BE CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. UNDER THE LEGAL DEFINITIONS, THIS HAS MEANT IN HIS CASE THAT THE CHARGES, BOTH AT HIS FIRST TRIAL AND CURRENTLY, HAVE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED HIS ACTS IN LYON, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL WITHIN THE CATEGORY OF WAR CRIMES. THEY ALLEGE INSTEAD HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEPORTATION AND SUBSEQUENT MALTREATMENT OF HIS VICTIMS. THE CASE CONCERNING ANDRE LASSAGNE RECEIVED A MAJOR BLOW LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS

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REVEALED BY THE LAWYER OF THE LASSAGNE FAMILY THAT ANDRE LASSAGNE WAS NAMED IN A LIST OF OVER 3,000 PEOPLE ORDERED DEPORTED TO GERMANY BY THE GERMAN COMMAND IN PARIS. SINCE BARBIE'S ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE DURING THE WAR WERE CONFINED TO THE LYON REGION AND IT APPEARS THAT THE DECISION TO DEPORT LASSAGNE WAS MADE IN PARIS AFTER BARBIE HAS RELINQUISHED CONTROL OF LASSAGNE'S CASE TO GERMAN AUTHORITIES THERE, A DISMISSAL OF THE CHARGE IS NOW CONSIDERED A REAL POSSIBILITY.

3. ALTHOUGH THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LIST, WHICH IS DRAWN FROM GERMAN ARCHIVES, HAS NOT BEEN CONCLUSIVELY ESTABLISHED, THE LASSAGNE FAMILY'S LAWYER, BY DISCLOSING IT, HAS GIVEN IT SUBSTANTIAL CREDENCE. BRUNO LARATS NAME DID NOT APPEAR ON THE SAME LIST, AND THE LARAT FAMILY LAWYERS HAVE STATED THEIR INTENTION TO CARRY ON WITH THE SECOND CHARGE, REGARDLESS OF ANY DISMISSAL AS TO LASSAGNE. PUBLIC INTEREST IN LYON CONCERNING BARBIE HAS BEEN INDISCERNIBLE RECENTLY. THIS TURN OF EVENTS, IF IT DOES RESULT IN DISMISSAL OF ONE OF THE CHARGES BEFORE TRIAL, MAY TAKE A LOT OF THE STEAM OUT OF A PROSECUTION WHICH, FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED REFTTEL, BEGAN ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT NEAR THE END OF THE FIRST TRIAL.

VALERGA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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